

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1–15. (cancelled)

Claim 16. (currently amended) A composite material comprising: (a) one or more poorly water-soluble phosphate salts of calcium, fluoride salts of calcium, or fluorophosphate salts of calcium, which salts may also contain hydroxyl and/or carbonate groups, the calcium salt or salts being in the form of crystalline, rodlet-like primary nanoparticles having a mean particle diameter of 10 to 300 nm; and (b) protein components selected from the group consisting of one or more proteins, protein hydrolyzates, or protein hydrolyzate derivatives wherein the ~~rodlet-like primary nanoparticles of the calcium salts are uniformly composite is a microscopically heterogeneous aggregate of the nanoparticles~~ associated onto the skeleton of the protein component.

Claim 17. (previously presented) The composite material of claim 16 wherein the rodlet-like primary particles have a thickness of 2 to 50 nm and a length of 10 to 150 nm.

Claim 18. (previously presented) The composite material of 16, wherein b) comprises one or more substances selected from the group consisting of collagen, gelatine, keratin, casein, wheat protein, rice protein, soya protein, almond protein, and hydrolyzates and hydrolyzate derivatives thereof.

Claim 19. (previously presented) The composite material of claim 16, wherein b) comprises one or more substances selected from the group consisting of gelatine, casein, and their hydrolyzates.

Claim 20. (previously presented) The composite material of claim 16, wherein the calcium salts are encapsulated with one or more surface modifiers.

Claim 21. (previously presented) The composite material of claim 16, wherein the calcium salts comprise one or more hydroxylapatite or fluorapatite salts.

Claims 22–27. (cancelled)

Claim 28. (previously presented) A toothpaste comprising the composite material of claim 16.

Claims 29–30. (cancelled)

Claim 31. (new) The composite material of claim 16, wherein b) comprises 0.1% to 60% by weight of the composite material.

Claim 32. (new) The composite material of claim 31, wherein b) comprises 0.5% to 10% by weight of the composite material.